

REMARKS

Claims 1, 4-7, and 10-13 remain in the application with claim 1 having been amended hereby and claim 2 having been cancelled, without prejudice or disclaimer.

Reconsideration is respectfully requested of the rejection of claims 1, 4, and 6 under 35 USC § 102(e), as being anticipated by Lee et al.

In paragraph 6. of the instant official action claim 2 is objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claim 1 has been amended hereby to include claim 2 in its entirety. Claim 2 has been cancelled. Claims 4 and 6 depend from claim 1.

Therefore, by reason of the inclusion in claim 1 of the allowable subject matter of claim 2, it is respectfully submitted that claims 1, 4, and 6 are patentably distinct over the cited reference.

Reconsideration is respectfully requested of the rejection of claim 5 under 35 USC §103, as being unpatentable over Lee et al. in view of Schnizlein.

Claim 5 depends from claim 1, which now includes the allowable subject matter of claim 2. Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that claim 5 imparts of that allowable

subject matter as well.

Notice is respectfully taken of the allowance of claims 7 and 10-13.

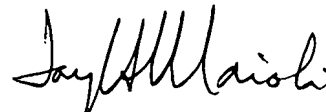
Accordingly, by reason of the amendment to claim 1 to include the allowable subject matter of claim 2 and the cancellation of claim 2, it is respectfully submitted that all claims remaining in this application are now in condition for allowance.

The reference cited as of interest has been reviewed and is not seen to show or suggest the present invention as recited in the amended claims.

Favorable reconsideration is earnestly solicited.

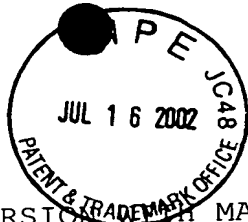
Respectfully submitted,

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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend claim 1 by rewriting same to read as follows and cancel claim 2, without prejudice or disclaimer.

--1. (Thrice Amended) An audio signal processing method for performing a process for decoding supplied data, comprising the steps of:

detecting whether zero data continues for a predetermined period of time in said supplied data;

determining, when zero data continue for said predetermined period of time, that said supplied data are compressed audio data; and

performing a decoding operation on said supplied data,

wherein when zero data continuing for said predetermined period of time is not detected, it is determined that said supplied data are non-compressed audio data, and said decoding operation is performed[.], and

wherein upon detection that zero data continue for said predetermined period of time, said decoding is performed by switching said supplied data to said decoding operation based on a sync signal of said supplied data.